

D<sub>1</sub> Prior art mixers used for this purpose are disclosed, e.g., in US patents 5,279,709 and 5,575,559 and EP 664 150, WO 93/07961, WO-A-96/32186, and WO-A-96/33007. It is a characteristic feature of all mixers of the art that they employ a rotatable rotor in order to provide a sufficient mixing efficiency. The rotatable rotor specifically refers to a member which is connected to the drive through a shaft and most usually receives its power from the electricity supply of the mill. Furthermore, the mixer construction is usually such that a certain pressure loss occurs in the mixer. In practice, it means that the power compensation corresponding to the pressure loss caused by the mixer has been taken into account when selecting a pump which operates at some stage of the process and precedes the mixer. So, in practice, power is lost in the pump for compensating the pressure loss of the mixer as well as in the mixer itself for rotating its rotor.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please further amend the pending claims herein as follows:<sup>2</sup>

D<sub>2</sub> 32. (AMENDED) Apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said outlet includes an outlet pipe which recovers dynamic pressure from the flow of mixed suspension.

[Please cancel claims 38 and 39.]

40. Apparatus as in claim 37, wherein the conduit introduces the fluid medium directly into an interior space of said mixer casing.

D<sub>3</sub> 41. Apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said inlet includes inlet piping for the mass flow of material, and wherein said conduit introduces the fluid medium into the inlet piping.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Rule 121(c), a marked-up version of the amended claims appears in Appendix II hereto and shows all changes by underlining added language and bracketing deleted language.

D3 and 42. Apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said inlet is provided with at least one throttling member which throttles the mass flow of material into said casing.

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D4 47. Apparatus as recited in claim 37, further comprising at least one stationary mixing member disposed within said casing.

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D5 50. Apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said outlet includes an outlet pipe which recovers dynamic pressure from the flow of mixed suspension..

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51. Apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said rotor has a center; and wherein said rotor is formed of a shaft mounted on bearings in said casing.

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52. Apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said inlet and outlet are disposed with respect to each other so that direction of fluid flow changes at most about 100 degrees from said inlet to said outlet.

D6 53. Apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein said outlet is tangential to the direction of rotation of said rotor.

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#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, the incorrect EP citation helpfully noted by the Examiner has been remedied.

Claims 38 and 39 have been cancelled and thus corresponding changes have been made to the dependencies of many of the remaining claims. In addition, claims 32, 40 and 50 have been amended so as to address the Examiner's rejection advanced under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

The only issues remaining to be resolved in this application are the Examiner's rejections advanced under 35 USC §103(a). Specifically, prior claims 24-26, 34-43, and 52-53 attracted a rejection based on the combination of Klein (USP 1,156,409) in view